

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EURE-00 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /142 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6712

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, GW, BE, NL

SUBJECT: FRG SPOKESMEN AFFIRM, THEN DENY NEWSWEEK

REPORT ON JOINT WEST EUROPEAN TROOP REDUCTION PLAN

1. UPI REPORT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS ON NEWSWEEK
ARTICLE (WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN) DESCRIBING A JOINT

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SECRET WEST EUROPEAN PLAN FOR TROOP REDUCTIONS WORKED

OUT BY FRG, BELGIUM AND NETHERLANDS. THE PLAN ALLEGEDLY CALLS FOR A 14 PERCENT REDUCTION OF US AND SOVIET TROOPS IN EUROPE, WITH A 7 PERCENT CUT IN ALL OTHER TROOPS STATIONED IN FRG EXCEPT FOR FRENCH. IT REPORTEDLY WOULD HAVE BEEN UNVEILED THIS FALL WHEN MBFR TALKS RESUME IN VIENNA.

2. AT AUGUST 6 PRESS CONFERENCE, A DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID HIS MINISTRY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH PLANS, AND ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED DURING DEFENSE MINISTRY LEBER'S RECENT VISIT TO THE US. A FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN AT THE SAME PRESS CONFERENCE SAID SUCH A PLAN WOULD HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AMONG THE NATO ALLIES PRIOR TO ANY INTRODUCTION IN VIENNA.

3. HOWEVER, A SECOND DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN TOLD UPI AUGUST 6 THAT ALTHOUGH THE NEWSWEEK REPORT WAS "PREMATURE, THE FIGURES DO NOT APPEAR TO BE UNREALISTIC". HE SAID THE PLAN MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN US SECDEF SCHLESINGER AND LEBER IN JULY, BUT NOT IN A LARGER FORUM. THIS SECOND OFFICIAL LATER CHARACTERIZED HIS EARLIER REMARKS AS "SPECULATION", WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION, NOT AS A CURRENT STATUS REPORT.
HILLENBRAND

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